



MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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For Immediate Release

MEDIA RELEASE

MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY WELCOMES REGIONAL ARMOURY MANAGEMENT TRAINING COURSE

Port of Spain: *"We have a shared problem across the region. We are all now affronted by the proliferation of illegal firearms and the abuse of legal ones."* These were the words of Minister of National Security the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P., while delivering remarks during the Opening Ceremony for the Regional Armoury Management Training Course (AMC), which is being held over a five day period from August 21-25, 2023, at the Police Academy, St. James.

The Armoury Management Training Course is a component of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean's (UNLIREC) engagement with Trinidad and Tobago and the region, through the Caribbean Firearms Roadmap. The adoption of the Roadmap represents the Government of Trinidad and Tobago's commitment and that of our CARICOM partners, to meaningfully address the proliferation of illicit firearms in the region.

The Armoury Management Training Course falls directly under Goal Four of the Caribbean Firearms Roadmap, which aims to systematically decrease the risk of diversion of firearms and ammunition from government and non-government owned arsenals. The course allows law enforcement officers to receive training in the technical skills and management processes necessary for the control and management of small arms and ammunition, as well as general stockpile management to prevent the loss, theft and diversion of government and privately held arms and ammunition in the custody of state security entities. The course also trains participants in the safe and efficient inspection, repair and maintenance of commonly used service weapons.

During his remarks at the Opening Ceremony, Minister Hinds underscored the importance of a regional response to illicit firearms trafficking and recognized international partners such as the Government of Canada and UNLIREC, who continue to commit to and support this initiative.

Minister Hinds urged the participants to embrace the course with dedication and enthusiasm, stating that, *"The knowledge you gain here is not just for personal*

enhancement, but also meaningfully translates to national and regional security efforts. We in this region are all grappling with the deleterious effects of these weapons on our people and societies, and initiatives such as these assist in minimizing vulnerabilities and maximizing the safety of our nations and citizens."

The Minister reiterated the commitment of the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to ensure that these best practices are adopted, so that any loss, theft, diversion or misuse is minimized and avoided.

Also present at the opening ceremony were Commissioner of Police, Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, Mrs. Erla Harewood-Christopher; Political Counsellor, High Commission of Canada, Ms. Jessica Birks; and Political Affairs Officer, United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC), Ms. Katja Boettcher.

PHOTOS AND CAPTIONS:



Photo 1: Minister of National Security the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P. delivered remarks during the Opening Ceremony for the Regional Armoury Management Training Course (AMC), at the Police Academy, St. James, on Monday 21 August, 2023.



Photo 2: Group photograph of Minister of National Security the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P. (front row, fifth from left); Commissioner of Police, Mrs. Erla Harewood-Christopher (front row, sixth from left); representatives from the High Commission of Canada and UNLIREC; facilitators; and participants of the Regional Armoury Management Training Course (AMC), at the Police Academy, St. James, on Monday 21 August, 2023.

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